(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter;

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government is aware of the media report.

(b) Government is alive to situation and have aopted a multi-pronged strecegy to compat and frustrate the designs of ISI. This includes gearing up intelligence machinery, modernization and upgradation of police, border fencing, intensified border patrolling, improved border management includingsetting up of border outposts, huetralizing plans of militants activicies in hinterland etc. Besides the enforcement agencies related to drugs have been asked to keep utmost vigil and to step up enforcement of stringement provisions of NDPS Act. BSF and Coast Guards have also been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotics drugs on the border in addition to Central and state enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

Reserved Battalion in Tripura

248. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minsiter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to assist the Tripura Government for raising of two reserved battalion in the State; and

(b) if so, by when this decision would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No decision has yet been taken by the Govt. on the requests of the state Govts. for raising of IR Battalions including that of state Govt. of Tripura.

(b) Does not arise.

Sati Ritual at Mahoba

249. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported re-enactment of the barbaric ritual of SATI at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh; and